

NEWS RELEASE

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Lincoln Man Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison for Producing and Possessing Child Pornography

Springfield, Illinois -- A Lincoln, Illinois man, Howard D. Pinkley, age 58, was sentenced today to serve 30 years in federal prison for making and possessing child pornography, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott scheduled a hearing on September 18, 2006, to determine final restitution to be paid by Pinkley to victims of the offenses. Following today's hearing, Pinkley was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

Pinkley pled guilty on January 30, 2006, to producing and possessing child pornography. He was charged after law enforcement agents were notified in November 2005 of pornographic photos of an unidentified child that were developed at a processing facility in Crawfordsville, Indiana, as part of an order placed by Pinkley at a Wal-Mart in Lincoln. Pinkley admitted that from November 2003 through November 10, 2005, he enticed a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct to produce child pornography, and that he possessed books, videotapes, computer images and other materials containing child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Heaton stated, "The Department of Justice has made protection of children one of its highest priorities through the Project Safe Childhood initiative. Today's 30-year sentence is a testament to our unwavering commitment to punish and remove child predators from society for as long as the law allows."

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

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